

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims to read as set forth immediately below.

1. A patch bag comprising a bag and a patch, wherein:

(A) the bag comprises a first heat-shrinkable film, the bag having an open top, a bottom seal, and a side-seal at a first side edge of the bag; and

(B) the patch comprises a second heat-shrinkable film, the patch covering a portion of a seamless second side edge of the bag and at least a portion of both a first lay-flat side of the bag and a second lay-flat side of the bag;

62 wherein the bag comprises a first film and the patch comprises a second film, and the side-seal is through the first film but not through the second film and the patch does not extend to either the bottom seal or the side seal, and the patch covers more than 50 percent across the width of each of the lay-flat sides of the bag.

63 2. The patch bag according to Claim 1, wherein the second film has a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10 percent.

18. A patch bag, comprising:

64 (A) a lay-flat heat-shrinkable bag having an open top, a bottom seal, a first lay-flat side, a second lay-flat side, a seamless first side edge, and a seamless second side edge;

(B) a heat-shrinkable patch covering:

(i) across an entirety of a width of the first lay-flat side of the bag;

(ii) a portion of the seamless first side edge; and

(iii) a portion of the seamless second side edge; and

64 (C) a backseamed seal in the second lay-flat side of the bag, the backseamed seal running the length of the bag, wherein the bag comprises a first film and the patch comprises a second film, and the backseamed seal is through the first film but not through the second film and the patch does not extend to the backseamed seal;

wherein the patch does not cover the bottom of the bag, the patch does not extend to the bottom seal, and the bottom seal is through the bag and not through the patch, and the patch covers more than 50 percent across the width of each of the lay-flat sides of the bag.

20. A patch bag, comprising:

(A) a heat-shrinkable bag having an open top, a first side-seal, a second side-seal, and a seamless bottom edge; and

65 (B) a single heat-shrinkable patch which covers a portion of the seamless bottom edge of the bag, at least a portion of an outside surface of a first lay-flat side of the bag, and at least a portion of an outside surface of a second lay-flat side of the bag, the single patch having a length of from about 101 to 200 percent of a length of the bag, wherein the bag comprises a first film and the patch comprises a second film, and the first and second side seals are through the first film but not through the second film and the patch does not extend to either the first side seal or the second side seal.

66 34. The patch bag according to Claim 20, wherein the first film is a biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film comprising an outside abuse layer, a core O<sub>2</sub>-barrier layer, an inside sealant layer, and the second film is a second biaxially-oriented, heat-shrinkable film.

Kindly add the following newly-presented claims:

---36. The patch bag according to Claim 2, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 20 percent.

37. The patch bag according to Claim 29, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10 percent.

67 38. The patch bag according to Claim 37, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 20 percent.

39. The patch bag according to Claim 32, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 10 percent.

40. The patch bag according to Claim 39, wherein the first film and the second film each have a total free shrink, at 185°F, of at least 20 percent.---